



# Kentucky Derby Update

## Wednesday, April 28, 2021

### TWO TUESDAY DERBY ARRIVALS GET FIRST MORNING OF TRAINING AT CHURCHILL DOWNS

**LOUISVILLE, KY (Wednesday, April 28, 2021)** – Two of the three final Kentucky Derby entrants to arrive at Churchill Downs on Tuesday got their first feel for the main track beneath the Twin Spires on a humid, overcast Wednesday morning.

Trainer Vicki Oliver had **Hidden Stash** out for a 1 ½-mile gallop at 7:30 with **Like the King** galloping a bit more than a mile with exercise rider Jose Hernandez aboard for trainer **Wesley Ward**.

**Brooklyn Strong** had a walk day for trainer **Danny Velazquez**.

**BOURBONIC, DYNAMIC ONE, KNOWN AGENDA, SAINTHOOD** – The Derby Quartet, a friendly foursome that hopes to play a winning tune Saturday in Kentucky Derby 147, was busy getting in their practice Wednesday morning under the watchful eye of bandleader **Todd Pletcher**, who doubles as one of America's leading horse trainers.

Three of the colts formed a trio for the 7:30-7:45 special Kentucky Derby/Kentucky Oaks training session in order to get in their licks, each going for a mile and a quarter gallop around the big Churchill Downs oval. **Known Agenda** played his tunes for rider **Hector Ramos**, **Dynamic One** harmonized with **Carlos Perez Quevedo** and **Sainthood** and **Amelia Green** were right in rhythm. At 7:50 their other member, **Bourbonic** with Ramos crooning, went solo for a similar 10-furlong session.

After training, the Derby quartet had a paddock schooling session.

Pletcher was asked if an impending rain storm in Louisville might cause their sweet notes to be canceled Thursday morning.

"The only way we won't train Thursday is if it's unsafe (lightning) outside," he said.

So the show will go on.

**BROOKLYN STRONG** – **Mark Schwartz's Brooklyn Strong**, who posted his final work Monday morning at Parx before vanning overnight to Churchill Downs, walked the shedrow of barn 41 and is expected to make his first trip to the track Thursday morning. Trainer **Danny Velazquez** arrived in Louisville at 11 a.m. Wednesday to saddle his first Kentucky Derby starter from his Philadelphia base.

**ESSENTIAL QUALITY, MANDALOUN** – Godolphin's **Essential Quality** and Juddmonte Farm's **Mandaloun** galloped 1 ½ miles at 5:15 a.m. for trainer Brad Cox.

The duo were scheduled to school in Race 4 Wednesday.

Cox is counting down the hours until he saddles his first horses in the Kentucky Derby.

"I'm not too nervous yet, just getting excited," Cox said. "This week is a lot of fun and I'm really excited to be a part of it in this role."

For Cox, the Derby was a dream growing up in South Louisville. Now, it's turned into a reality which he gets to celebrate with his family. His sons, **Blake** and **Bryson**, hold a pivotal role around the barn assisting in training. Cox's youngest son, **Brodie**, will be at Churchill Downs for the Oaks and Derby.

"It's really special running in these big races and sharing these moments with my sons," Cox said.

Along with his family, Cox often has a group of his friends who spend time with him at the races. Led by former Campbellsville University Football legends **Joe Don Looney** and **Billy Troutman**, Cox's group of friends have been known around the backside as the "Brad Cox Mafia." Looney and Troutman have been friends with Cox for more than 15 years.

"We like to keep him relaxed and ready for game day," Looney said.

Cox grew up just blocks from Churchill Downs on Euclid Avenue in the south end of Louisville. If **Essential Quality** or **Mandaloun** win Saturday, Cox would be the first Louisville-born trainer to win the Kentucky Derby.

**HELUM, SOUP AND SANDWICH** – **D J Stable's Helium** and **Live Oak Plantation's** homebred **Soup and Sandwich** both galloped again Wednesday morning, according to trainer **Mark Casse's** assistant **David Carroll**, who said their Tuesday schooling session in the paddock went well also, while indicating his boss will be on the backstretch Thursday morning.

**HIDDEN STASH** – **BBN Racing's Hidden Stash** made his first appearance at Churchill Downs since winning an allowance race last Nov. 28 galloping a mile and a half under trainer **Vicki Oliver** at 7:30 Wednesday morning.

Fourth in the Blue Grass Stakes (GII) in his most recent start, **Hidden Stash** had been training at his home base at Keeneland since that race and arrived at Churchill Downs Tuesday morning.

With her first Kentucky Derby entrant, the time at Churchill Downs is almost like a vacation for Oliver.

"I usually gallop seven or eight a morning at Keeneland," said Oliver, who is commuting back and forth to Lexington for the rest of the week. "The 7:30 training window is perfect for us."

Following training, **Hidden Stash** had a paddock schooling session at 10 o'clock with plenty of other runners and passed with flying colors.

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"I was going to do it on a race day, but with the rain in the forecast, I didn't want to do it then," Oliver said. "He was good and we don't have to do that again."

**HIGHLY MOTIVATED** – **Klaravich Stables' Highly Motivated** galloped 1 3/8 miles again Wednesday morning during the 7:30-7:45 allotted training time for Derby and Oaks horses and will school in the paddock prior to Wednesday's second race. Trainer **Chad Brown** said the son of **Into Mischief** has progressed each day since his final Derby workout this past Saturday, and definitely showed more today in his gallop than Tuesday.

"I like the way he's going, I thought he was moving a little better today," Brown said. "He had a strong work and now, the second day back galloping out of the breeze, he's loosening up again and looks super. I'm really happy with him."

Brown, a four-time Eclipse Award winner for Outstanding Trainer (2016-2019), has been on the precipice of a Derby win before, as **Normandy Invasion** took the lead off the far turn before running fourth in 2013, and **Good Magic** was second to Triple Crown winner **Justify** in 2018. Highly Motivated has some similarities, but some differences as well.

"He's also making his third start off the layoff, like both those horses were," Brown said. "But this horse is a little faster positionally than Normandy Invasion. He broke then split the field when he settled in and moved early. Highly Motivated, I can see getting a better spot than that, but both horses have a quick acceleration."

**HOT ROD CHARLIE** – TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (GII) winner **Hot Rod Charlie** was back at it Wednesday morning, smartly galloping a mile and a quarter under exercise rider **Jonny Garcia** during the special Derby/Oaks training session at 7:30. The well-made son of the 2013 Preakness winner **Oxbow** had his usual substantial rooting crew looking on, led by horse trainer/impresario **Doug O'Neill**.

The California-based conditioner has a crew of five right-hand men who oversee his latest Derby threat, including key assistant **Leandro Mora** as well as equine therapist **Tyler Cerin**.

Cerin, the 33-year-old son of **Vladimir Cerin**, a training mainstay on the Southern California circuit, has been practicing his "hands on" horse work for more than a decade and has become a regular around the O'Neill barn. He was there for all of their previous Kentucky Derby capers – **I'll Have Another**'s score in the 2012 Run for the Roses; **Goldencents** going unplaced in the 2013 edition, and **Nyquist** proving the hero of the 2016 renewal.

He was asked about Hot Rod Charlie. Has he had to do anything special with the millionaire colt who has run short and long, dirt and turf and there or thereabout every time?

"Not really," Cerin said. "Nothing special with him. I just make sure all's good with his general well being. He's a pretty straightforward horse."

Trainer O'Neill was queried about the ever-growing gathering that surrounds "Charlie," which includes three separate ownership groups, families, friends, newfound friends

and folks who want to be their friends, most of them from California.

"They're quite a group," he offered. "They'll be good for business here in town. By Friday night I expect them to be up around 150 people."

**KEEPMEINMIND** – Kentucky Jockey Club winner **Keepmeinmind** continues to make a favorable impression as he once again galloped strongly over the Churchill track at 5:30 a.m. Wednesday. The **Laoban** colt, who races for the partnership of **Cypress Creek Equine, Arnold Bennewith** and **Spendthrift Farms LLC**, is trying to overcome poor starts in the Rebel Stakes (GII) and Blue Grass Stakes (GII) in the Kentucky Derby.

"He's been working really good," trainer **Robertino Diodoro** said. "In his first race this year at Oaklawn (Rebel), it was a speed biased track. It wasn't (jockey) David's (Cohen) fault, but he got hung four or five wide and when it looked like he was about to make a move, he just hung. In the Blue Grass, we knew there wasn't much speed so we tried to put him closer to the front. We did, but he didn't do it on his own. David had to force him to lay closer and when it came time to run, he was empty. He's had excuses."

"I think he'll show up to be the real horse on Saturday. It's hard to say I'm confident with a 50-1 shot, but I do think he'll show up. He'll come running."

**KING FURY** – **Fern Circle Stables** and **Three Chimneys Farm's King Fury** repeated the usual routine established by trainer **Kenny McPeek** on Wednesday morning. During the period reserved for Kentucky Derby and Oaks horses, the winner of the Lexington (GIII) at Keeneland was sent for a maintenance gallop with exercise rider **Lalo Jose Quiroz** aboard.

"It was a mile-and-a-half, uncomplicated," said McPeek.

**LIKE THE KING** – **M Racing Group's Like the King** galloped a little more than a mile after 9 o'clock with exercise rider **Jose Hernandez** aboard for trainer **Wesley Ward**.

Wednesday morning's exercise marked the first time Like the King had been on the track at Churchill Downs. He had arrived Tuesday morning from Ward's main base at Keeneland.

Overseeing Like the King's preparation at Churchill Downs is California trainer **Blake Heap** who has served as Ward's man on the scene when the trainer doesn't travel.

"His father **Dennis** had a horse named **Do Right by Dudley** in 1987 at Turf Paradise," Heap said of when the working relationship started. "A few years later we started being stabled next to each other and starting helping each other out."

Ward, who will be starting his first Kentucky Derby runner, has won four Breeders' Cup races with three coming at Santa Anita where Heap oversaw the preparation of the likes of **Judy the Beauty** and **Hootenanny** in 2014 as well as other runners Ward has sent to the West Coast over the past 17 years.

**MEDINA SPIRIT – Zedan Racing Stables' Medina Spirit** went to the track at 7:30 a.m. with **Humberto Gomez** and galloped about 1 ½ miles while his six-time Kentucky Derby winning trainer **Bob Baffert** looked on from the main gap.

Baffert is seeking a record seventh Kentucky Derby following Authentic last year, **Justify** in 2018, **America Pharoah** in 2015, **War Emblem** in 2002, and back to back wins with **Silver Charm** in 1997 and **Real Quiet** in 1998.

“When I got beat with **Cavonnier** in 1996, I thought I’d never win a Kentucky Derby,” Baffert said. “Then, I won with Silver Charm and Real Quiet and started thinking this was easy, but then it got lean for a number of years. You just never know when these Derby wins are going to come. I’m just glad to be back here.”

Baffert said Medina Spirit, who has never been worse than second in five career starts, is probably among the top 10 runners in this year’s field, but that he wouldn’t be surprised to see him put in a top effort.

“The thing about Medina Spirit is he’s an overachiever,” Baffert said. “He’s a real fighter and if there’s a battle, he’ll be right there. I wouldn’t be surprised if he got a piece of it.”

**MIDNIGHT BOURBON, SUPER STOCK – Winchell Thoroughbreds' Midnight Bourbon and Erv Woolsey's and trainer Steve Asmussen's father Keith's Super Stock** both hit the track Wednesday morning during the Derby-Oaks training session at 7:30. Midnight Bourbon stretched his legs for the first time since his final Derby breeze Monday morning and continues to thrive, while looking like a bigger, stronger version of the colt who ran in all three of Fair Grounds’ Derby preps this winter. Super Stock was allowed to do a bit more, as he worked Saturday, and galloped 1 ¼ miles.

**O BESOS – Bernard Racing, Tagg Team Racing, West Point Thoroughbreds and Terry L. Stephens' O Besos** galloped about one mile and schooled in the paddock Wednesday morning.

“We’re ready to roll,” trainer **Greg Foley** said.

**ROCK YOUR WORLD** – The tall, dark son of the stellar stallion **Candy Ride** continued his forward training toward Saturday’s Run for the Roses with a solid gallop Wednesday morning during the special Derby/Oaks period at Churchill Downs that goes from 7:30-7:45 and limits those allowed on the track to runners headed to the two classic races scheduled this weekend.

Trainer **John Sadler** had rider **Javier Meza** up for the exercise and had him put his charge through a nine-furlong move that met with his approval.

Rock Your World is three-for-three so far in his brief career with two of the wins coming on turf, but the most recent – the prestigious Santa Anita Derby (GI) on April 3 – coming on the dirt. His race before that was a score in the listed Pasadena Stakes and in both those black-type tallies he had the top California rider **Umberto Rispoli** in the irons. The plan was for the Italian-born Rispoli to be there for the Kentucky Derby, too, but – as happens often in the world of racing – things changed.

**Joel Rosario**, currently the second-leading rider in the country and a personal favorite of trainer Sadler, suddenly came open. He thought he was booked for a Derby spin on the horse **Concert Tour**, but when that colt came up short in the Arkansas Derby, Rosario and his agent, **Ron Anderson**, were back Derby mount hunting. They turned to an old friend.

The 36-year-old Rosario is a native of the Dominican Republic and was that country’s leading rider four years in a row starting at the age of 15 before heading to California and taking on tougher competition. He first made waves in Northern California where he nearly unseated the king of the Bay Area, **Russell Baze**, a feat considered all but impossible. Then he shifted his tack to Southern California.

“I first rode him on a horse at Golden Gate and he got beat a whisker,” said Sadler. “But I said ‘Wow’ to myself, that kid rode the hair off my horse. When he came south I was on him right away. I put him up on his first winner at Hollywood Park – he came through a hole that I didn’t think possible in order to do it -- and we were off and running from there.”

Sadler and Rosario clicked and kept on clicking. They were riding and training champs together at Del Mar in 2009 and won races – and stakes races – in bunches at all three of the Southern California tracks. Thanks to the kind folks at Equibase, the record shows that – to date – Sadler has given Rosario a leg up on 1,007 horses, won 242 races with him and earned \$20,886,898 in purses. They’ve won 47 stakes together and 34 of them have been graded. No other trainer in the country has ridden Rosario more times or won more races with him. It isn’t even close.

So, yes indeed, Sadler and Rosario have history, which led to their connection in this year’s Run for the Roses.

“Make no mistake,” Sadler notes, “**Umberto Rispoli** is a terrific rider. He’s won Santa Anita’s stakes the last two weekends for me and we’ve won a lot of races together. But the analytics with Joel are so strong I just couldn’t pass up the opportunity. I’m hoping, of course, it all works out.”

Rosario will guide Rock Your World into post 15 Saturday in the 20-horse Derby field. Then he’ll ride for all he’s worth for Sadler – the man who was the key in making him a star – to try to give him some payback that would be beyond sweet -- his first triumph in the Kentucky Derby.

**THE FIELD FOR THE \$3 MILLION KENTUCKY DERBY PRESENTED BY WOODFORD RESERVE (GI)** – Known Agenda (Irad Ortiz Jr., 6-1), Like the King (Drayden Van Dyke, 50-1), Brooklyn Strong (Umberto Rispoli, 50-1), Keepmeinmind (David Cohen, 50-1), Sainthood (Corey Lanerie, 50-1), O Besos (Marcelino Pedroza, 20-1), Mandaloun (Florent Geroux, 15-1), Medina Spirit (John Velazquez, 15-1), Hot Rod Charlie (Flavien Prat, 8-1), Midnight Bourbon (Mike Smith, 20-1), Dynamic One (Jose Ortiz, 20-1), Helium (Julien Leparoux, 50-1), Hidden Stash (Rafael Bejarano, 50-1), Essential Quality (Luis Saez, 2-1), Rock Your World (Joel Rosario, 5-1), King Fury (Brian Hernandez Jr., 20-1), Highly Motivated (Javier Castellano, 10-1), Super Stock (Ricardo Santana Jr., 30-1), Soup and Sandwich (Tyler Gaffalione, 30-1), Bourbonic (Kendrick Carmouche, 30-1). All starters will carry 126 pounds

**LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS UPDATE – Cypress Creek Equine's Ava's Grace** has been scratched from the Kentucky Oaks field and is being sent to Hagyard Equine Medical Institute for a full evaluation, according to her trainer **Robertino Diodoro**.

**AVA'S GRACE – Cypress Creek Equine's Ava's Grace** has been scratched from the Kentucky Oaks field and is being sent to Hagyard Equine Medical Institute for a full evaluation, according to her trainer **Robertino Diodoro**.

"It's just bad timing," Diodoro said. "We're not sure exactly what the problem is, so she's going to Hagyard for a scan. I'm surprised it didn't show up after her work. She had been doing so well. We're disappointed, obviously."

Ava's Grace was listed as a 50-1 proposition on the Kentucky Oaks morning line.

**CLAIRIERE, PAULINE'S PEARL – Stonestreet Stables' homebreds Pauline's Pearl and Clairiere both galloped a mile around 8:30 Wednesday morning and also stood in the starting gate, according to trainer Steve Asmussen's assistant Scott Blasi.**

**COACH, TRAVEL COLUMN – Kueber Racing's Coach and OXO Equine's Travel Column** had their penultimate gallop prior to Friday's Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI).

The duo both schooled in the gate prior to galloping about 1 5/8 miles.

**COMPETITIVE SPEED – With owner John Minchello looking on, Competitive Speed** galloped 1 3/8 miles under exercise rider **Anthony Gallo**.

Arriving Tuesday night from Boston, Minchello made his first visit to Churchill Downs this morning.

"I love it already," said Minchello, who owns seven horses and purchased Competitive Speed for \$5,000 at auction as a 2-year-old.

Competitive Speed is 50-1 on the morning line, "but she doesn't know that," Minchello said. "Initially, I thought she was a regular horse, but when you put her next to another horse, she's very competitive."

Trainer **Javier Gonzalez** said Competitive Speed may gallop a mile in the morning or take the day off should a forecast for heavy rain prove to be correct.

Competitive Speed completed her paddock schooling Tuesday afternoon to Gonzalez's satisfaction.

**CRAZY BEAUTIFUL – Phoenix Thoroughbred LTD's Crazy Beautiful** was on the track ahead of expected rain later Wednesday. The winner of the Gulfstream Oaks (GII) appeared along with other Derby and Oaks contenders, including stablemate **King Fury**, when the 7:30 a.m. training period began. She galloped a few lengths behind her stablemate, smoothly moving through the same 1 1/2-mile regimen called for by trainer **Kenny McPeek**, with exercise rider **Danny Ramsey** aboard.

"They're both doing well, easy stuff," McPeek said.

**MALATHAAT** – Friday's Kentucky Oaks morning-line favorite, the **Curlin** filly **Malathaat**, went trackside at 6 a.m. Wednesday and galloped a mile and a quarter under exercise rider **Amelia Green**. Trainer **Todd Pletcher** was a most interested observer trackside just inside the six-furlong gap.

With as much as three inches of rain threatening to be part of the picture Wednesday and Thursday in Louisville, the conditioner was asked if it would affect his training pattern heading to Friday's "Run for the Lillies."

"We'll train tomorrow unless it's unsafe to go outdoors (lightning)" he said.

The undefeated Malathaat was made the 5-2 favorite for the nine-furlong Oaks and will have Hall of Fame rider John Velazquez as her pilot. They'll break from Post 10 in the 14-horse field.

**MARACUJA – Beach Haven Thoroughbreds' Maracuja** picked up the pace in her second day on the track since arriving Monday from Belmont Park for trainer **Rob Atras**, who is scheduled to arrive Thursday. The daughter of **Honor Code**, who was second to **Search Results** in Aqueduct's April 3 Gazelle (GII), had a light jog Tuesday morning but galloped about 1 3/8 miles as part of a morning that also saw her visit the paddock, under the supervision of Atras' wife and assistant **Brittney**.

"We don't really paddock school during the races, so today we backed up to the paddock, put her in her stall and she was great, very quiet," Atras said. "Tuesday we went really nice and easy but she picked it up a bit more today and seems to be handling the track nicely."

Maracuja began her career at Aqueduct in December and has made all four career starts at the South Ozone Park, New York oval, so her trip to Louisville was her first venture away from home as a racehorse. However, she handled a van ride up from Florida as a 2-year-old like a seasoned pro, which gave her connections no reason to fret.

"Last May, when she came up from Florida, she was obviously only 2 but she got off the van and was like 'Great, OK, this is where I live now,'" Atras said. "Her groom **Mario Cordero** rode with her here and said she really didn't do anything different. She handled it well and she likes the attention, so she's happy with it. I was happy Mario was able to come because if we go for a small race, it's just one of us, so she's happy there's a few of us with her."

**MILLEFEUILLE – Juddmonte Farms' Millefeuille** galloped 1 3/8 miles under exercise rider **Ailsa Morrison** during the 7:30-7:45 training window for Kentucky Derby and Oaks horses.

"She had a good gallop this morning," said trainer **Bill Mott**, whose Churchill Downs headquarters has been Barn 19 since 1980 and from which he has sent out the majority of his 735 winners beneath the Twin Spires.

Morrison, who has ridden as an apprentice in Canada, has been with the Mott barn for about a year and has been the regular morning partner for Millefeuille for a little more than a month.

"Her energy is up and so is mine," Morrison said. "You can feel it. It is all good."

**MORAZ** – Just as she had the day before, Kentucky Oaks starter **Moraz** went about her training business during the special Derby/Oaks training period between 7:30-7:45 a.m.

Once more trainer **Mike McCarthy**'s daughter of **Empire Maker** had exercise rider **Olha Krushevskia** in the tack and once more she galloped about a mile and one half. The trainer is happy with her preparations as she continues to move forward toward her date in Friday's \$1.25 million Kentucky Oaks.

"She's already (afternoon) paddocked," the conditioner added. "But we plan to take her over there again at some point today."

And what of the impending rain that appears likely to go all Wednesday night and into Thursday morning?

"We'll still train her tomorrow morning," McCarthy said. "Some rain is not going to change our plans."

**PASS THE CHAMPAGNE** – Trainer **George Weaver** ponied **R.A. Hill Stable's Pass the Champagne** to the track during the special 7:30 a.m. training time and then watched as his filly galloped 1 ½ miles with his wife, **Cindy Hutter**, on board.

"She had a good gallop," Weaver said. "She's doing well. Everything is nice and smooth."

The Kentucky Oaks will be the fourth career start for the Flatter filly, who most recently finished second by a head to Oaks favorite **Malathaat** in the Ashland Stakes (GI) at Keeneland.

"She ran a big race in the Ashland," Weaver said. "I'll talk it over with (jockey) **Javier (Castellano)**, but she's a real kind filly with tactical speed. We'll just play the break and go from there."

Pass the Champagne will maintain her same training schedule Thursday heading into Friday's race.

**SEARCH RESULTS** – **Klaravich Stables' Search Results** again galloped 1 3/8 miles Wednesday morning for trainer **Chad Brown**.

**WILL'S SECRET** – **Willis Horton's Honeybee (GIII)** winner **Will's Secret** galloped about 1 ½ miles under **Dallas Stewart**'s exercise rider **Lee Guidry** at 7:30 a.m.

Will's Secret was accompanied on track by Stewart's 19-year-old son **Cole**, who transitioned into a role at his barn following his high school graduation in 2020.

**THE FIELD FOR THE \$1.25 MILLION LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS** – **Pauline's Pearl** (Ricardo Santana Jr., 20-1), **Maracuja** (Kendrick Carmouche, 20-1), **Clairiere** (Tyler Gaffalione, 5-1), **Crazy Beautiful** (Jose Ortiz, 15-1), **Pass the Champagne** (Javier Castellano, 15-1), **Travel Column** (Florent Geroux, 3-1), **Ava's Grace** (David Cohen, 50-1), **Moraz** (Flavien Prat (30-1), **Coach** (Luis Saez, 50-1), **Malathaat** (John Velazquez, 5-2), **Will's Secret** (Jon Court, 30-1), **Search Results** (Irad Ortiz Jr., 3-1), **Competitive Speed** (Chris Landeros, 50-1), **Millefeuille** (Joel Rosario, 20-1). All starters will carry 121 pounds.

**CHANGE OF CONTROL ON PROWL FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE STAKES WIN** – Trainer **Michelle Lovell** found that making just a small change in equipment could make a big difference for **Roddy Harrison**'s 5-year-old mare, **Change of Control**.

While wintering at Fair Grounds in New Orleans, Lovell decided to race the mare without blinkers, which she had been wearing. In March, Change of Control narrowly lost an allowance event at Fair Grounds, then moved north to capture the Giant's Causeway at Keeneland on April 10.

Now, she'll be one of the favorites in the 11th running of the \$150,000 Unbridled Sidney, the 5 ½-furlong co-feature on the Matt Winn Turf Course at Churchill Downs on Thursday. The race drew a full field of 10 fillies and mares, along with three also-eligibles.

She'll start from the No. 2 post with jockey **Colby Hernandez**, just outside of **Chris Coleman** and **Brad King**'s **Into Mystic**, who finished a length behind her in the Giant's Causeway.

"She handled the yielding turf at Keeneland really well, which was surprising," said Lovell. "We did make one equipment change two races back, and that seemed to help her quite a lot. She was wearing blinkers, but she didn't really need them, and I wanted to take a chance with her and take them off. So we took them off, to see if it would move her forward a little bit. And it seemed to help her, quite a lot. It was a great change."

With just three weeks between races, Lovell hasn't had to give Change of Control any major workouts.

"She really loves Churchill's turf," she said of Change of Control, who is 3-1-1 in six starts at Churchill. "She's coming off of a really nice win, probably her best race to date, and she's coming out of it really good, mentally and physically. She's so happy on this track, it's hard to contain her."

In the Giant's Causeway, Into Mystic was the even-money favorite. This time, the **Brendan Walsh**-trained 5-year-old, who will have **Florent Geroux** riding, and Change of Control are both 4-1 on the morning line.

"She ran well at Keeneland," said Walsh. "The race didn't really set up for her great. She was beaten by a nice filly, and she came out of it good. So we'll try her back against her again in the Unbridled Sidney."

Since finishing 12th in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (GI) at Keeneland last November, Into Mystic has a win and three seconds in stakes company.

"She's never let us down," said Walsh. "The Breeders' Cup, you just draw a line through, because she got caught on the front end, and it was just too fast. Outside of that, she's never run a bad race since we've had her."

"It's a full field with 10," he added, "but I think she can handle it."

**Team Valor's Oleksandra**, an Australian-bred 7-year-old trained by **Neil Drysdale**, was made the slight 3-1 favorite on the morning line. The mare, in foal to **Into Mischief**, will start from the No. 4 post with jockey **Joel Rosario**. The Grade I-winner is being pointed to a possible repeat triumph in the Jaipur Stakes at Belmont, before her retirement, Team Valor announced in late March. She'll be offered at the Keeneland November Sale to dissolve the partnership.

The Unbridled Sidney also includes **Three Diamonds Farm's Jakarta**, who finished 4 ½ lengths behind Into Mystic in third place at Keeneland. Starting from post six, **Luis Saez** will again ride Jakarta for trainer **Mike Maker**.

The field for the Unbridled Sidney, with riders, weights and morning line, from the inside, is: Into Mystic (Geroux, 124 pounds, 4-1), Change of Control (Colby Hernandez, 124, 4-1), **Lady Grace** (Tyler Gaffalione, 122, 12-1), Oleksandra (AUS) (Joel Rosario, 122, 3-1), **Foxy Belle** (Ricardo Santana Jr., 122, 12-1), Jakarta (Saez, 122, 5-1), **Winning Envelope** (Javier Castellano, 122, 12-1), **She'sonthewarpath** (Adam Beschizza, 122, 15-1), **Elle Z** (Mitchell Murrill, 122, 6-1) and **Yes It's Ginger** (Brian Hernandez Jr., 122, 15-1). Also-eligible: **A Bit of Both** (Santana Jr., 122), **Ambassador Luna** (Julien Leparoux, 122) and **Fashionable Lady** (Drayden Van Dyke, 122).

The Unbridled Sidney will share the spotlight on Thurby's 11-race program that begins at 12:45 p.m. (all times Eastern) with the 16th running of the \$130,000 Opening Verse Overnight Stakes for 4-year-olds and up going a mile on the turf. The Unbridled Sidney will go as the 10th race with a 5:45 p.m. post time.

**BACKSIDE MEDIA PROTOCOLS** – All media without a barn area parking pass must park in the Brown, Turquoise or Yellow Lot and will not be permitted to drive through the Stable Gate Entrance.

Also, media members that plan to be on the backside that have not picked up their Kentucky Derby credentials, must email Kevin Kerstein at [Kevin.Kerstein@kyderby.com](mailto:Kevin.Kerstein@kyderby.com) with their driver's license number to be added to the credential system. Failure to do so may not permit you access to the backside.

Credential Office hours can be found in the Kentucky Derby Rules and Regulations document that was sent via email with the credential link.

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**FTP** – For the latest Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks photos from Coady Photography visit:  
<http://gofile.me/52JQy/B6wuNvPf7>. Please credit all photos to Churchill Downs/Coady Photography.

**NEWSFEED AUDIO/VIDEO AVAILABLE** – The Kentucky Derby Newsfeed is now available via FTP download. Files are 1080 HD and will be uploaded on a daily basis.

#### **NEWSFEED & NEWS CONFERENCES VIA FTP CLIENT**

The Kentucky Derby Newsfeed is now available via FTP download. Files are 1080 HD and will be uploaded on a daily basis

To access Newsfeed footage & News Conferences via FTP client (Filezilla, Cyberduck, etc) use the following:

**Server:** <ftp3.ftptoyoursite.com>

**Username:** kyderby147

**Password:** 2021DerbyMedia

**Port:** 22

To access Newsfeed footage & News Conferences via web browser, enter this information into your browser address bar:

**[kyderby.hammondcg.com](http://kyderby.hammondcg.com)**

You will receive a prompt to enter a username and password.

**Username:** kyderby147

**Password:** 2021DerbyMedia

For further information, inquiries or technical difficulties, please contact Jesse B. Kelsey, Vice-President of Hammond Communications Group, Inc. at (859) 492-5768.

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